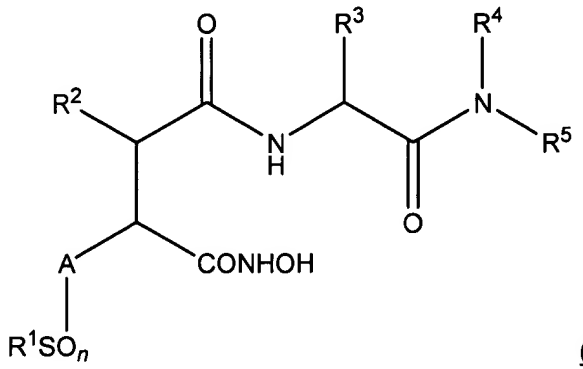
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 88, 95, 98, 107, and 110 without prejudice or disclaimer to pursuing the underlying subject matter on one or more continuing applications. Please enter the following amendment to the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I to the retina, said composition comprising a polymeric suspension agent which suspends a therapeutic agent, said therapeutic agent consisting essentially of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of ~~the~~ formula I:



(I)

where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation.

2. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

3. (currently amended) The method of 1, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is batimastat.

4. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

5. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

6. (previously presented) The method of 5, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

7 -70. (cancelled)

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

72. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

73. (previously presented) The method of 72, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said compositions also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is not batimastat.

76. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, ~~pterigium,~~ retinal vein occlusion, oxygen

induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

77. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

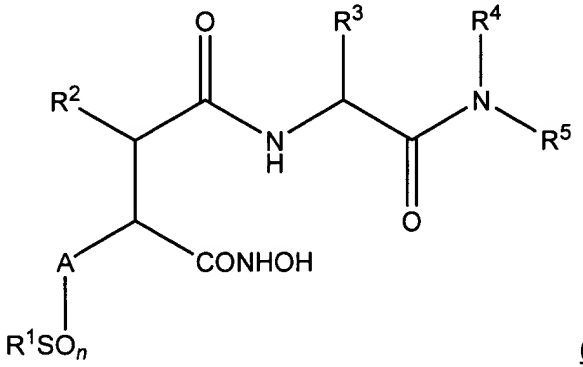
a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue[[,]];

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected[[,]];

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed[[,]]; or

a diseases ~~implicating~~ associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

78. (currently amended) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of prophylaxis, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I to the retina, said composition comprising a polymeric suspension agent which suspends a therapeutic agent, said therapeutic agent consisting essentially of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of ~~the~~ formula I:



(I)

where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or

substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation.

79. (previously presented) The method of 78, wherein said mammal is a human.

80. (currently amended) The method of 78, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is batimastat.

81. (previously presented) The method of 78, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

82. (previously presented) The method of 81, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said composition also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

84. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

85. (previously presented) The method of 84, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 85, wherein said compositions also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

87. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said compound of formula I is not batimastat.

88. (cancelled)

89. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

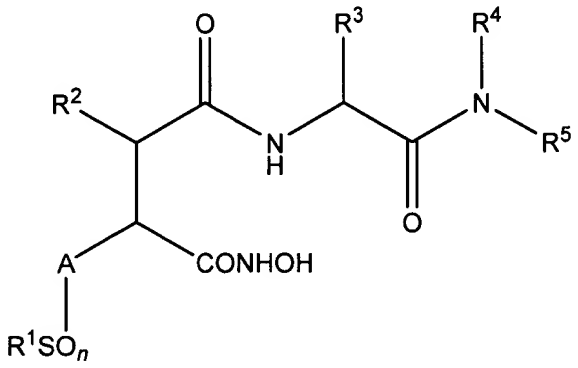
a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue[[,]];

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected[[,]];

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed[[,]]; or

a diseases ~~implicating~~ associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

90. (currently amended) A method for treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of treatment or prophylaxis, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I to the retina, said composition consisting essentially of a polymeric suspension agent and a ~~batimastat~~ compound of ~~the~~ formula I:



(I)

where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

91. (previously presented) The method of 90, wherein said mammal is a human.

92. (currently amended) The method of 90, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is batimastat.

93. (previously presented) The method of 90, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

94. (previously presented) The method of 93, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

95. (cancelled).

96. (currently amended) The method of claim 90, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

97. (previously presented) The method of 96, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

98. (cancelled)

99. (previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein said compound is not batimastat.

100. (currently amended) The method of claim 90, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, ~~pterigium,~~ retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

101. (currently amended) The method of claim 90, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

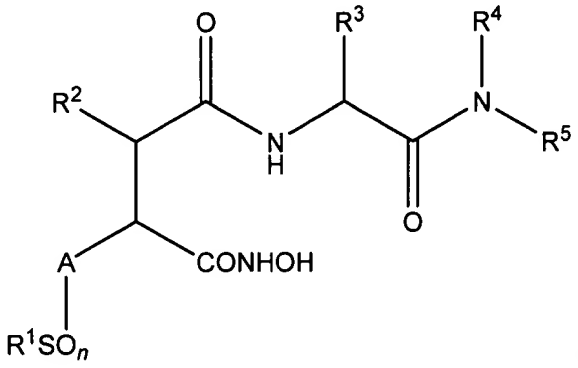
a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue[[,]];

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected[[,]];

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed[[,]]; or

a diseases ~~implicating~~ associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

102. (currently amended) A method for treating or preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of treatment or prophylaxis, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I to the retina, said composition consisting of a polymeric suspension agent and a ~~batimastat~~ compound of ~~the~~ formula I:



(I)

where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

103. (previously presented) The method of 102, wherein said mammal is a human.

104. (currently amended) The method of 102, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is batimastat.

105. (previously presented) The method of 102, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

106. (previously presented) The method of 105, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

107. (cancelled).

108. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said ~~batimastat~~ compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

109. (previously presented) The method of 108, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

110. (cancelled)

111. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said compound of formula I is not batimastat.

112. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, ~~pterigium,~~ retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

113. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue[[,]];

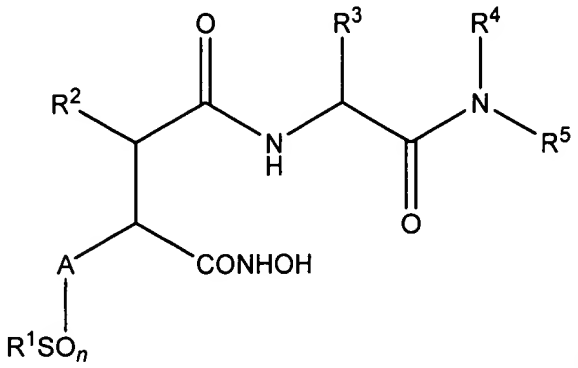
a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected[[,]];

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed[[,]]; or

a diseases ~~implicating~~ associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

114. (new) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a

therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to the retina, said composition consisting of a polymeric suspension agent and a compound of formula I:



(I)

where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

115. (new) The method of 114, wherein said mammal is a human.

116. (new) The method of 114, wherein said compound of formula I is batimastat.

117. (new) The method of 114, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

118. (new) The method of 117, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

119. (new) The method of claim 114, wherein said compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

120. (new) The method of 119, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

121. (new) The method of claim 114, wherein said compound of formula I is not batimastat.

122. (new) The method of claim 114, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

123. (new) The method of claim 114, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue;

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected;

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed; or a diseases associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.